# Safe in Your Arms

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# Safe in Your Arms

by hartfeathers

Summary

Everyone in New York, whether they be friend or foe, knows that you don't go anywhere near Nigel when he's with his darling. Adam Raki is untouchable.

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Prompt - "I wanted you to feel safe."

Notes

Hannibal Bingo Fill: Prompt - "I wanted you to feel safe."
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Everyone in New York, whether they be friend or foe, knows that you don't go anywhere near Nigel when he's with his darling. Adam Raki is untouchable. Anyone who causes him distress is at the mercy of not only Nigel but many of the criminal underworld. Adam has an ability to endear himself, with his sincere honesty and unafraid curiosity, to the rough and jaded people that Nigel interacts with.

Nigel is still dumbfounded that Adam has managed to ensnare Darko, who followed him to America. At first, Darko didn't know what to make of the young man who stole Nigel's heart but soon enough Adam drew him in with his inquisitive nature and lack of judgement in anything except lying - everyone in Nigel's organisation knows, you never lie to Adam.

And it's not just those who work for Nigel and Darko, even their rivals protect Adam, and not only in fear of retribution from Nigel. More than once a rival member had found themselves accidentally in Adam's presence.

One older man bumped into him at a convenience store, his stunned panic gave Adam a moment to study his face and comment that his freckles look like the constellation Scorpius. The man blushed in a way he hadn't since he was a teenager and quickly excused himself, little did Adam know he is a high ranker from one of Nigel's rivals. Overnight the number of Adam's protectors double.

A woman around Adam's age met him in the park while walking her dog, he complimented her hair - remarking that the auburn shade looked like the surface of Mars. His earnest smile inspired her to smile too and feel warm under the honest compliment. She is a hit woman for another of Nigel's rivals, Adam's protectors grow again.

Long story short, everyone in New York knows that you do not touch Nigel's sweetheart.

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One night a couple of men in their 20s, who are obviously trying to earn their stripes in an effort to be accepted into a gang, attack Nigel while he's walking to the park with Adam.

Nigel sees red. He tells Adam to look away and then attempts to beat some sense, or at least some fear, into the two fucking idiots. It's a short fight, the two quickly retreat with their tails between their legs. Nigel sends a quick text to Darko about the incident, no doubt in a few hours all the criminals in New York will know their names and faces, will be blacklisted and most likely will be run out of the city within a few days. Good riddance to bad rubbish.

"Adam?" He calls softly to the other man who has curled in on himself on a nearby bench. Nigel quickly makes sure he isn't bleeding before approaching, he'll probably have a few bruises tomorrow but the incompetent fuckers barely got a few punches in.

"Star? Are you okay?" Nigel feels dread sit heavy in his gut as Adam doesn't move, clearly tense and stressed. "Adam."

"I want to go home!" Adam's abrupt shout rings out in the silence of the evening air. It startles Nigel, but it's not surprising.

"Yes, sweetheart, let's go home." Nigel reaches out a hand tentatively and tries not to feel too hurt when Adam ignores it. He begins walking in the direction of home, his shoulders hunched and hugging himself, his fingers rapidly tapping against his arms. Nigel's heart aches with guilt as he catches up, careful to keep a respectful distance as they walk, the only sound is the rhythmic pattering of Adam's fingers against his coat.

Nigel knows that Adam needs space and time to process what just happened and how he feels, but Nigel cannot help but start to spiral. Guilt, shame and fear building within him - growing poisonous vines and constricting his chest making it hard to breathe.

Only once they are back inside their locked apartment does Adam turn to him and speak.

"I was scared, Nigel."

Nigel cannot tell if Adam keeps talking, usually he hangs off every word the other man says but right now all he can hear are those awful words on repeat echoing in his mind and the pounding of his own heart.

His precious star, his beloved Adam, his reason for being, had been scared and it is all Nigel's fault. The weight of his failure to protect the one he loves feels like it's crushing his lungs, his shame chokes him and his guilt drowns him. He knew he never deserved someone as incredible as Adam and this proves it. He told himself that if he loved Adam enough, if he cared for him and protected him then maybe, just maybe, he could become someone better, someone who deserves the love of such a bright star. But he isn't, he wasn't, and he never will be. He feels his eyes burn as tears gather in his eyes, pain swelling in his heart even more devastating than when he lost Gabi. He honestly doesn't know if he'll survive the loss this time.

"I wanted you to feel safe." He forces the words from his throat, rough and dripping with emotion. He needs Adam to know that all Nigel ever wanted was for him to feel safe, especially when he's with him. He never wanted to drag Adam into the darkness of his world and is endlessly surprised by Adam's love and acceptance - the very thought that he is going to lose him feels like a part of him shatters. To lose Adam - his love, his home, his soul - will be to lose himself.

"Nigel!" Adam's voice is impatient in a way that tells him that Adam has probably called his name to get his attention at least twice already.

He feels soft hands lightly cup his cheeks and he basks in the simple touch, greedily soaking it into his skin in case this is the last time he is graced a touch from his beloved.

"Nigel," Adam's voice is softer now, gentle and soothing to Nigel's ear, "You make me feel safe."

Nigel startles at the words, so honestly and earnestly spoken. His breath catches in his throat and the tears burning in his eyes overflow, leaving track on his cheeks and spill onto Adam's hands. He can feel his hands trembling as he reaches up to slowly, carefully, lay his hands over Adam's, silently begging him to never let go.

"I'm sorry, Star." He nuzzles into Adam's hands, kissing his palms in an attempt to press his apologies directly into Adam's skin. "I'm so sorry."

"I know, Nigel."

A small sob of relief escapes Nigel's lips as Adam steps forward and wraps his arms around Nigel's neck, pulling him into a tentative hug. Nigel simply buries his face in Adam's neck, breathing in the soft scent of him, and gently returns the embrace. Basking in the glow of Adam's forgiveness, Nigel is even more determined to protect and love his precious star for the rest of his life.

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